

MARVEL

LEGACY

THE SLINGERS RETURN

12

BEN REILLY:

THE SCARLET SPIDER[®]



DAVID
SLINEY
ROSENBERG

Years ago, Miles Warren, one of Peter Parker's college professors, stole a sample of Peter's genetic material and used it to create a perfect clone of Spider-Man. With all of Peter's memories, the clone fled. Created, not born, and without an identity of his own, he gave himself a new name and made his own way in the world as...



BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER

After a misguided turn as a super villain, **Ben Reilly** has made a home for himself in Las Vegas and has been trying to become a better man.

Fellow clone and Scarlet Spider, **Kaine Parker**, followed Ben to Vegas where he's become the unofficial protector of a veterans' shelter struggling in the fallout of Secret Empire.

In his quest for redemption, Ben has been caught in the middle of a sibling rivalry between his only ally, a casino magnate named **Cassandra Mercury**, and her brother and rival casino owner, **Silas Thorne**.

Meanwhile, **The Slingers**—Prodigy, Dusk, Ricochet and Hornet—found themselves reunited after Ben brutally attacked Thorne. In retaliation and in the belief that Ben is a dangerous threat, the Slingers kidnapped Cassandra!

The Slingers have given Ben Reilly an ultimatum: turn himself in to the police for assaulting Thorne or Cassandra Mercury dies!

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TERRY?

WE'RE
SCREWED. WE'RE
COMPLETELY
SCREWED.

MAYBE
YOU CAN FIND
SOMEWHERE
BETTER.

WITH WHAT?
THE COPIOUS
AMOUNT OF MONEY
WE HAVE
COMING IN?

THERE'S
NOTHING
WE CAN DO,
KAINE.

WE'LL
KEEP THIS
PLACE OPEN UNTIL
THE NEW LANDLORD
TEARS IT DOWN.
AND THEN WE
PACK UP.

UNLESS
YOU'VE GOT
ENOUGH MONEY
TO FIND US
SOMEWHERE
NEW.



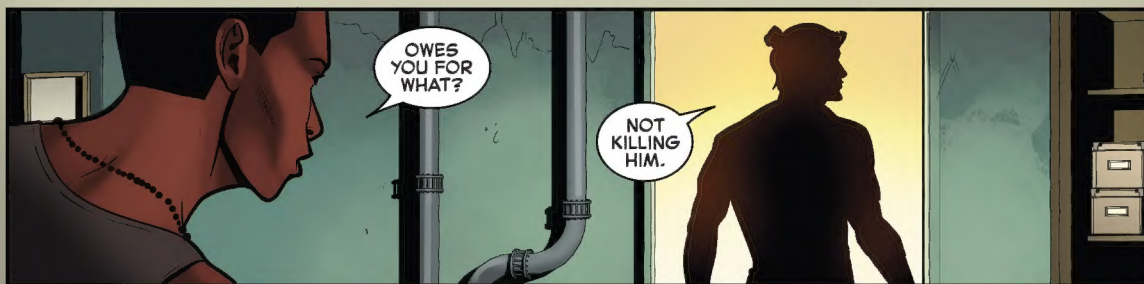
NO.



BUT I
MAY KNOW
SOMEONE
WHO DOES.

HIS NAME'S
BEN. HIS BEST
FRIEND OWNS
A CASINO...

...AND
HE OWES
ME BIG-
TIME.



OWES
YOU FOR
WHAT?

NOT
KILLING
HIM.



INCREDIBLE. THE *SLINGERS*, THE SO-CALLED GOOD GUYS, HAVE KIDNAPPED CASSANDRA AND NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME INTO...

WELL, INTO DOING THE RIGHT THING, I GUESS. SO, MAYBE THAT'S STILL GOOD-GUY STATUS.

STILL, IT'S LIKE THEY'RE OPERATING IN A MORAL VACUUM. THEN AGAIN, SO HAVE I.

AND NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM. JESUS... MAYBE I REALLY AM A BAD GUY...WHICH MAKES THEM THE GOOD GUYS.

SO ARE YOU GONNA GET OFF YOUR BUTT AND DO SOMETHING? I MEAN, HONESTLY, I DON'T CARE THAT YOU BEAT UP THORNE.

WHAT I CARE ABOUT IS CASSANDRA'S DAUGHTER IS WAITING FOR HER MOM TO COME HOME.

I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TELL HER THAT HER MOTHER PREDECEASED HER.

SO DO THE RIGHT THING. ASSUMING YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

SLATE'S RIGHT. NOT CARING ABOUT WHAT I DID DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS. IF I DON'T HAVE A MORAL CODE, I'M NOTHING.

FINE. I'LL GO.

FIVE
MINUTES
LATER...

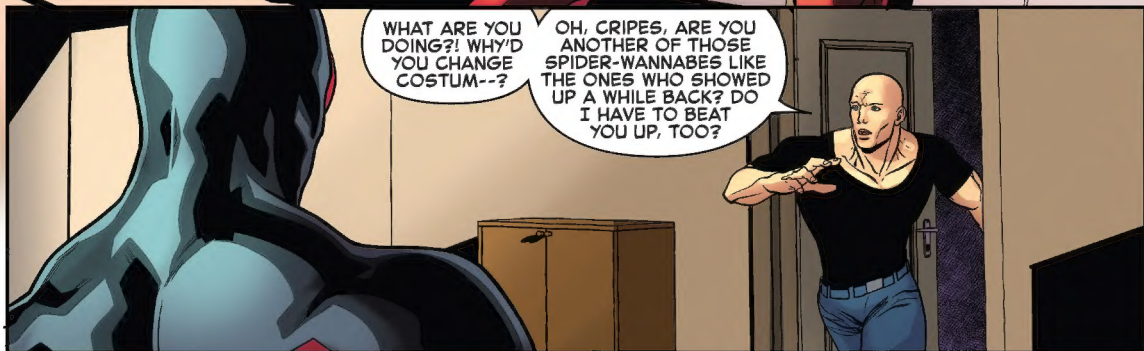
THEY REALLY
NEED TO HAVE
WINDOWS THAT
OPEN PUT IN
HERE.

NOW
WHERE THE
HELL IS--?



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?! WHY'D
YOU CHANGE
COSTUM--?

OH, CRIPES, ARE YOU
ANOTHER OF THOSE
SPIDER-WANNABES LIKE
THE ONES WHO SHOWED
UP A WHILE BACK? DO
I HAVE TO BEAT
YOU UP, TOO?



I'M THE
SCARLET
SPIDER.

NO, YOU'RE
NOT! THE
SCARLET SPIDER
JUST LEFT FOR
THE POLICE
STATION!

WHY?



SOME LUNATICS
KIDNAPPED CASSANDRA
MERCURY, AND THEY
WANT HIM TO--

WAIT...
SHE'S BEEN
KIDNAPPED?
MY GOD, THIS
IS PERFECT...

PERFECT?!



I WAS JUST THINKING
THAT HAVING A WEALTHY
WOMAN GRATEFUL TO
ME WOULD GO A LONG
WAY TOWARD SAVING
SOMEPLACE THAT'S
REALLY WORTHWHILE...

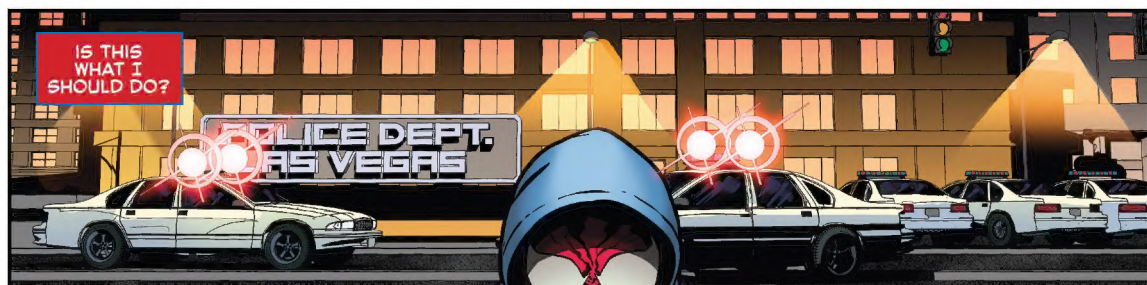


SORRY.
DOESN'T MATTER.
SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED.
THAT'S THE IMPORTANT
THING. WE'VE GOT
TO GET HER
BACK.

THAT'S
WHAT THE
SPIDER IS
TRYING
TO--

NO, WE
NEED SOMETHING
MORE DIRECT. AND
I HAVE A THOUGHT
ON THAT.





IS THIS
WHAT I
SHOULD DO?

POLICE DEPT.
LAS VEGAS

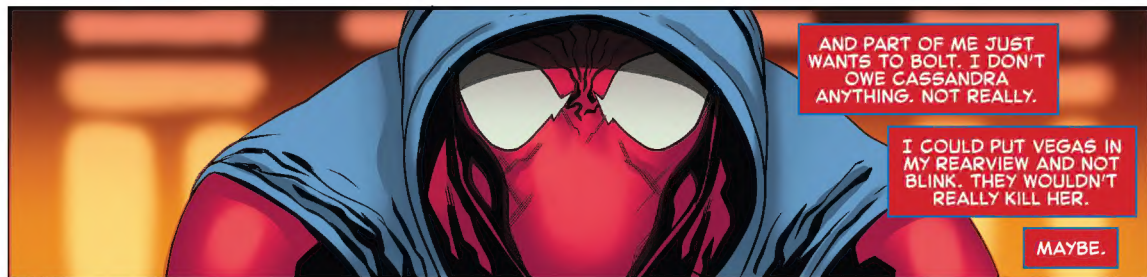
IS THIS THE
PATH I SHOULD
TAKE?

CONFESS
WHAT
I DID?



I MEAN, I DID BEAT THE
CRAP OUT OF HIM. NO
MATTER WHAT REASON
I HAD...AND IT WAS A
DAMNED GOOD REASON...

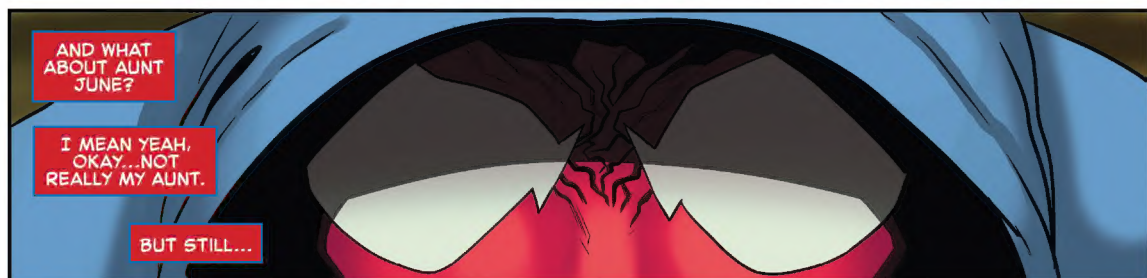
I SHOULDN'T HAVE
DONE THAT. AS MY
NOW-PARTLY-MESSED-
UP FACE ATTESTS.



AND PART OF ME JUST
WANTS TO BOLT. I DON'T
OWE CASSANDRA
ANYTHING. NOT REALLY.

I COULD PUT VEGAS IN
MY REARVIEW AND NOT
BLINK. THEY WOULDN'T
REALLY KILL HER.

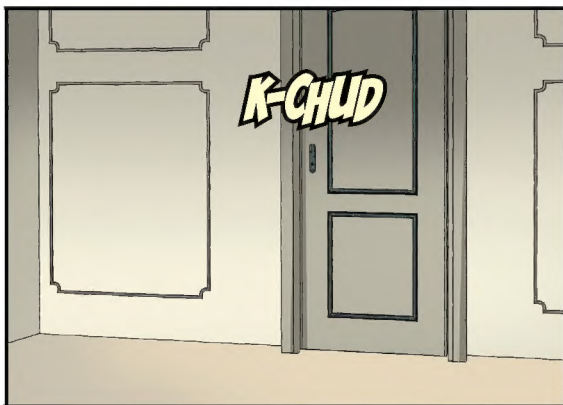
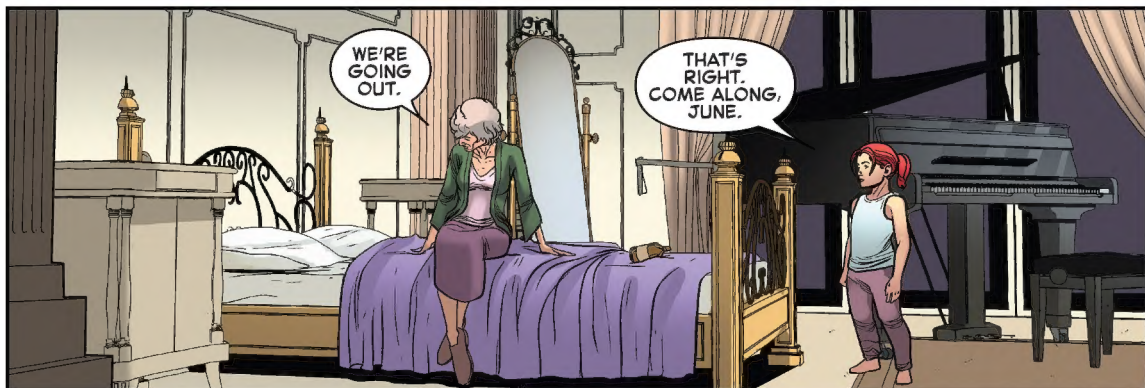
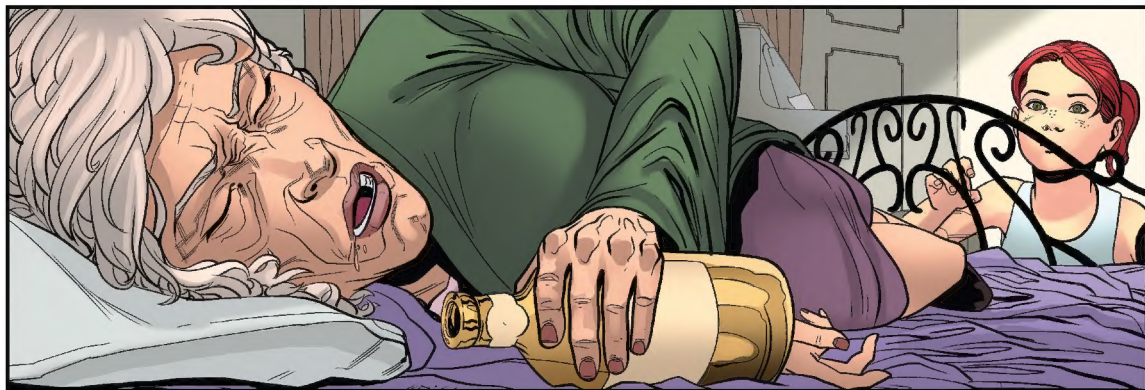
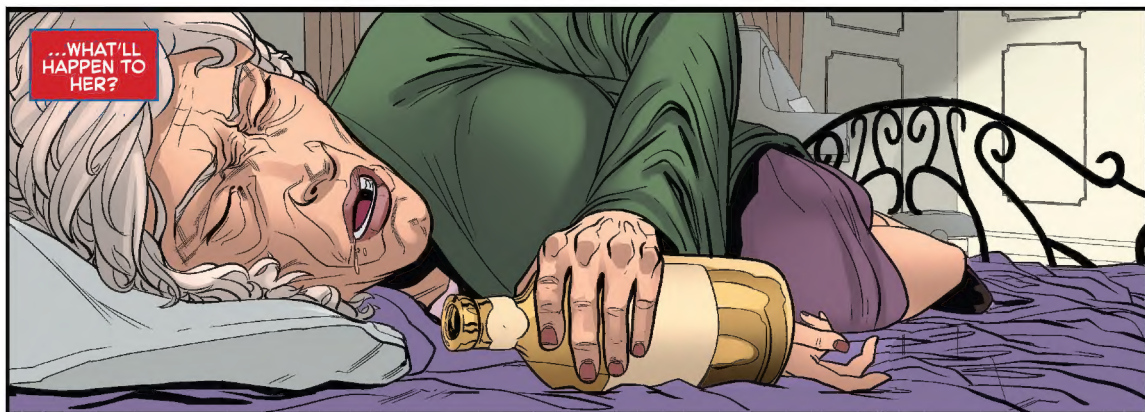
MAYBE.



AND WHAT
ABOUT AUNT
JUNE?

I MEAN YEAH,
OKAY...NOT
REALLY MY AUNT.

BUT STILL....





SCREW IT. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

SO IF I SIT IN JAIL FOR TEN YEARS WHILE MY FACE AND SOUL HEAL, THAT'S NOT SUCH A BAD THING, RI--?



HEY.

WHOA!



CRIPES, KATNE! WHAT THE HELL?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?



NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS, BUT I'M HERE TO TURN MYSELF IN FOR BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF SOMEBODY!

AND TO SAVE CASSANDRA MERCURY, RIGHT?

YES!



SLATE WAS ABLE TO ACCESS HER COMPUTER. HE KNOWS HER LOG-IN CODES, AND THE COMPUTER FOUND HER PHONE.

WHAT? THEY... THEY DIDN'T DESTROY IT?

I SUSPECT SHE HID IT IN HER UNDERWEAR OR SOMETHING. AND APPARENTLY HER KIDNAPPERS WERE TOO GENTLEMANLY TO STRIP-SEARCH HER.



WHERE IS SHE?

AT A THEATER, WHICH I SUSPECT IS OWNED BY THIS THORNE FELLOW.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?



FOR STARTERS, IT'S CALLED THE THORNE THEATER.

YYYYEAH, THAT'S A GOOD TIP.



YOU REALIZE IT COULD BE A TRAP? THEY MIGHT KNOW ABOUT THE CELL PHONE AND BE USING IT AS BAIT TO LURE ME IN.

THAT OCCURRED TO ME. BUT THEY WON'T BE EXPECTING TWO OF US.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME?



SHE'S A KIDNAPPED SINGLE MOTHER OF A DYING CHILD.

NO MATTER WHAT ELSE I'VE GOT GOING ON, THAT'S THE FIRST, BIGGEST CONCERN.

I'M NEEDED, SO I HELP.

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE WHOLE "HERO" THING?



JUST NEED TO BE REMINDED OF IT NOW AND THEN. THANKS.



LET'S GO.

SOOO YOU'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE ME HANGING?

THAT'S THE PLAN.



I WONDER
IF SCARLET
SPIDER'LL COME
HERE?

T THEATER

I'M NOT
SURE. PART OF
ME HOPES HE'LL
DO THE RIGHT
THING...

...AND PART
OF ME HOPES
HE'LL FOLLOW THIS
PHONE SO I CAN
ASK HIM WHY HE'S
THIS WAY.

PEOPLE
RARELY KNOW
WHY THEY'RE
EVIL...

BAAAM

FREEZE!

THAT'S
VERY RUDE,
JOHNNY. SHOUTING
AT ME LIKE
THAT.

HOLY
GOD...



WHY DON'T
YOU BRING
ME TO YOUR
ASSOCIATES?

BL...
BLACK
MARVEL?

INDEED.
DIDN'T PRODIGY
SAY HE SPOKE
WITH ME?

YEAH,
BUT I...
BUT HE...
BUT...

THE
SLINGERS,
JOHNNY. IT'S
IMPORTANT.



IF YOU LET ME GO NOW, I SWEAR I WILL NOT HAVE YOU KILLED.

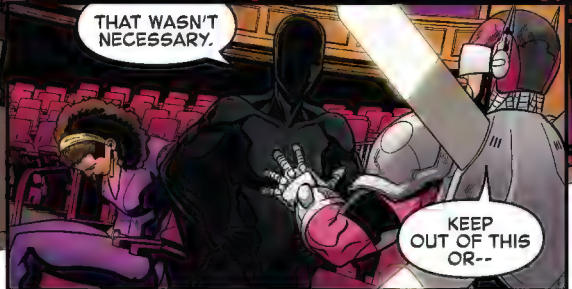
OTHERWISE, NO PROMISES.

SHUT UP.

I'M JUST THINKING OF Y--

WAAAK

I SAID SHUT UP!



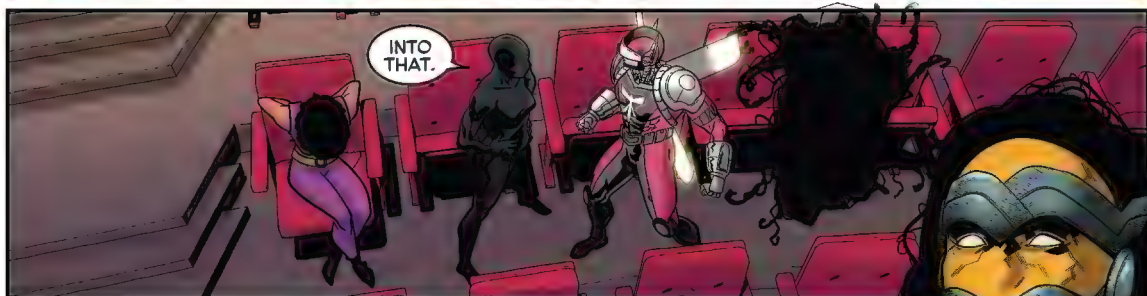
THAT WASN'T NECESSARY.

KEEP OUT OF THIS OR--

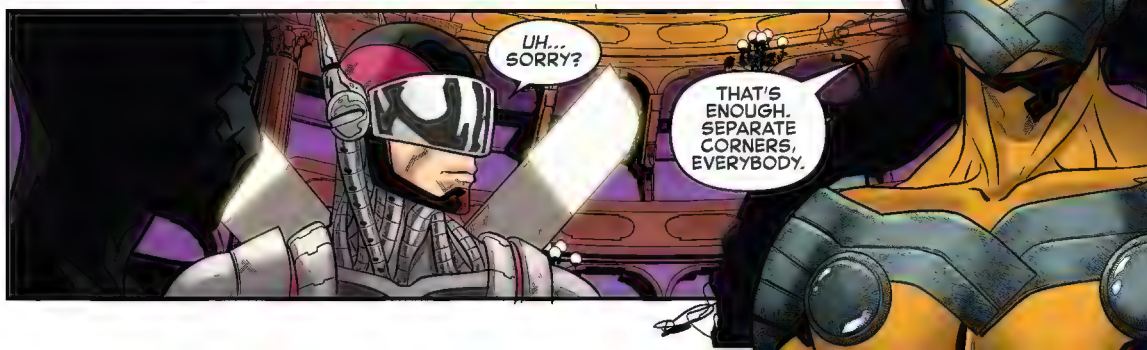


APOLOGIZE OR I'LL PUSH YOU IN.

IN? INTO WHAT?



INTO THAT.



UH... SORRY?

THAT'S ENOUGH. SEPARATE CORNERS, EVERYBODY.



UH...
PRODIGY? I, UH...
I'M STILL HAVING
TROUBLE BELIEVING
ALL THIS.

GREETINGS,
PRODIGY. DUSK.
HORNET.



DUSK...IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?



CASSIE!
WHAT'S
GOING
O--



HI
THERE.



SO...

BUTT
KICKINGS
ALL AROUND.
WHO'S FIRST
IN LINE?

'CAUSE
I GOT
ALL DAY.

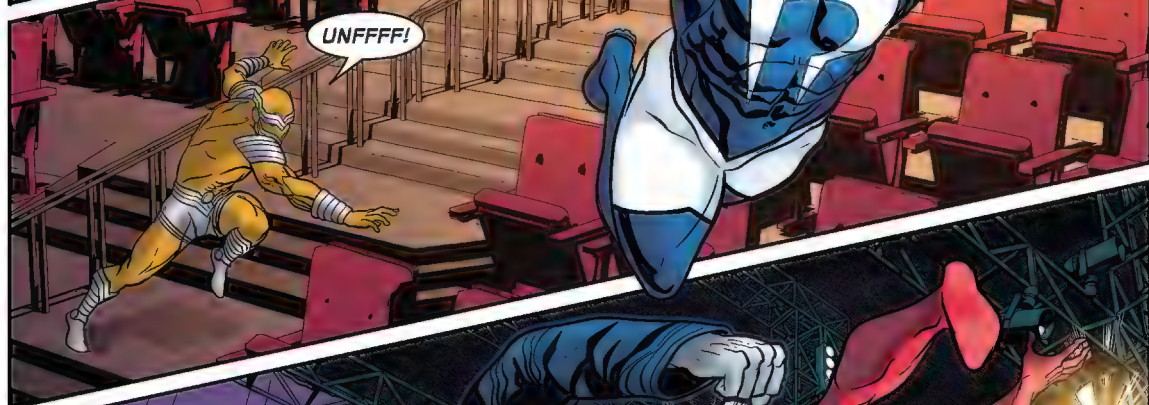


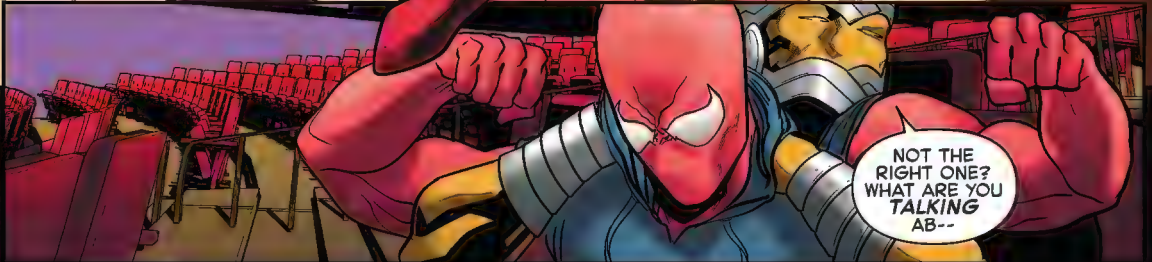
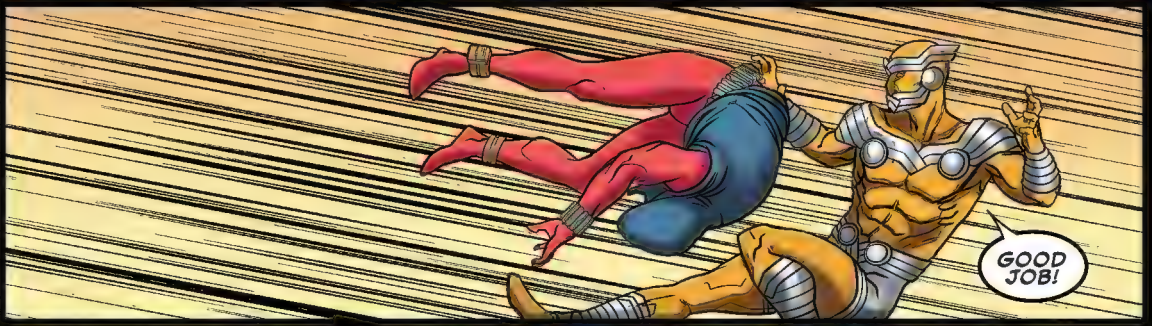
OH, I WAS
HOPING YOU'D
BE FIRST.

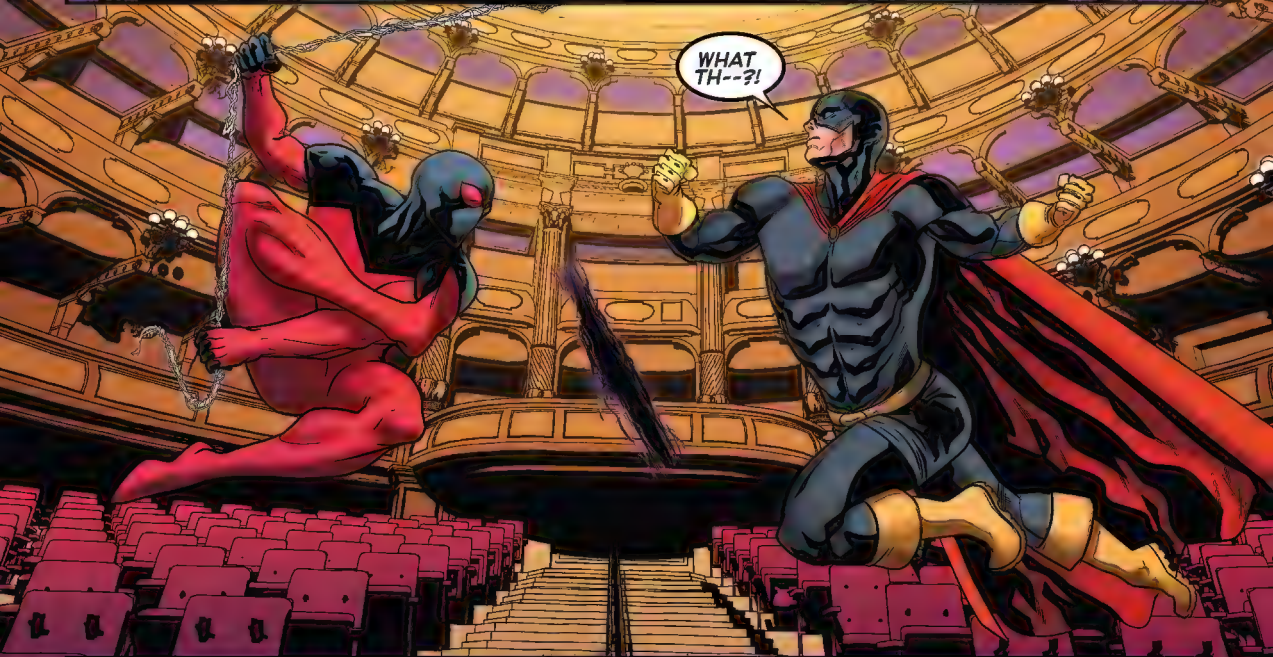
'CAUSE I'VE
SEEN ALL YOUR
WEAPONRY. I KNOW
WHAT TO AVOID,
WHAT TO USE
AGAINST YOU.

SO WE'RE
GONNA HAVE
SOME FUN
DANCING.











DUSK!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!



YOU'RE NOT
THE BLACK
MARVEL.

YOU'RE AN
IMPOSTOR--
JUST LIKE THE
NEW HORNET,
EXCEPT
WORSE.

YOU
DON'T HAVE
A SOUL.



DON'T...
DON'T BE
RIDICULOUS!

OF
COURSE I
HAVE A--

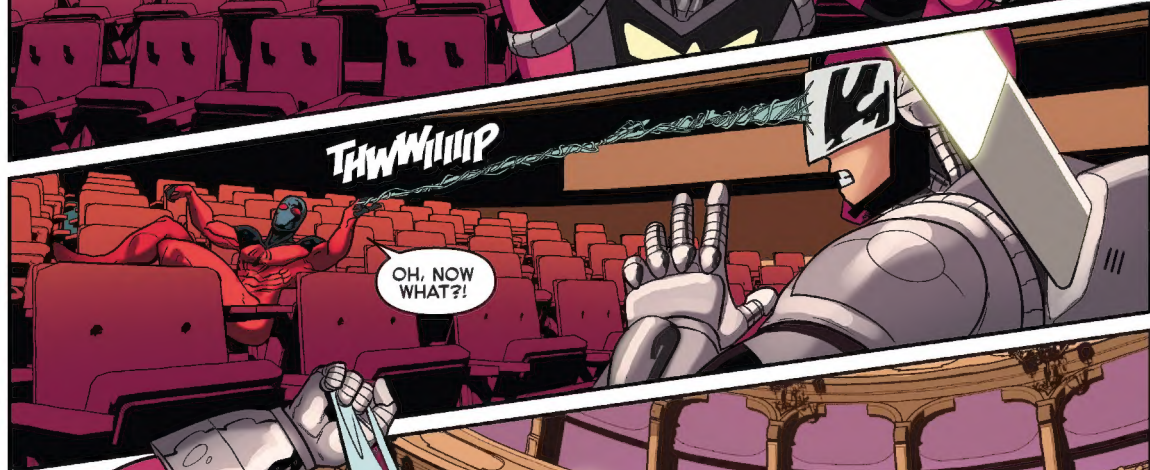


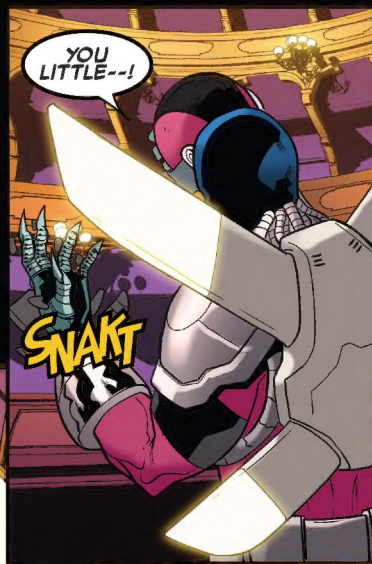
NO, YOU
DON'T.

TAKES
SOMEONE
WHO DIED
TO TELL.



SO WHAT
ARE YOU
EXACTLY?





EXCEPT IN
THE OLD DAYS,
THEY USED TO
CALL ME...

...CYBER.

TO BE
CONTINUED!

MARVEL LEGACY

NEXT:



LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING! DROP US A LINE AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!
BE SURE TO MARK IT "OKAY TO PRINT"!